

Message Text

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APPROVED BY EUR - MR. ARMITAGE
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R 140051Z DEC 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 274675

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ASC, GE, US, WB

SUBJECT: GDR HUMANITARIAN CASE: LEONARD LEE LOTT

REFERENCE: (A) BERLIN 6134; (B) USBERLIN 2240

1. INFORMATION CONTAINED REF (B) AND MEMCON OF DECEMBER 3
CAST SOME DOUBT ON HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF LOTT CASE AND
COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT RESOLUTION OF OTHER CASES GIVEN TO
GDR LAST JULY. OF EVEN MORE IMPORTANCE, HOWEVER, IS EX-
FILTRATION ELEMENT. SOVIETS HAVE RAISED THIS SUBJECT AT
HIGH LEVELS AND ANY FURTHER INCIDENTS, SUCH AS LOTT EFFORT
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TO EXFILTRATE FIANCEE AND SON OR HAVE THEM EXFILTRATED,

WOULD AT MINIMUM BE SEVERE EMBARRASSMENT, AND COULD LEAD TO EXCHANGES WITH SOVIETS WHICH WOULD NOT SERVE OUR INTERESTS.

2. AS POSTS AWARE, DEPARTMENT RECEIVING INQUIRIES FROM CONGRESS (INCLUDING ONE FROM SENATOR JACKSON ON LOTT'S BEHALF) AND PUBLIC ABOUT JULY LIST. NEW CASES ALSO BEING GIVEN TO DEPARTMENT. WE HAVE MADE RESOLUTION OF EXISTING CASES A HIGH PRIORITY ISSUE IN THE INITIAL STAGES OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GDR AND DO NOT WISH TO RISK JEOPARDIZING ANY FAMILY REUNIFICATION TO WHICH GDR MAY BE WILLING TO AGREE BY INCLUSION OF DOUBTFUL CASES.

3. DEPARTMENT CONCERNED THAT LOTT APPARENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR SOME TIME FOR VISITS TO EAST BERLIN IN VIOLATION OF ARMY REGULATIONS. WHILE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATION, IT WOULD SEEM THAT SITUATION CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE CURTAILMENT OF VISITS, NOT MERE INVESTIGATION AND PRESUMABLY SURVEILLANCE. ARMY INVESTIGATORS DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN AWARE OF OR AT LEAST DID NOT APPRECIATE SIGNIFICANCE OF FACT THAT MISSION AND DEPARTMENT MAKING SERIOUS EFFORT TO ASSIST LOTT AND THAT THIS INVOLVES USE OF OUR LIMITED POLITICAL CAPITAL WITH GDR.

4. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT WE SHOULD PROCEED ALONG FOLLOWING LINES FOR PRESENT:

(A) WHILE NOTE TO GDR ON HUMANITARIAN CASES HIGHLY DESIRABLE AT EARLY DATE, WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS PRUDENT TO DELAY THIS COMMUNICATION UNTIL FACTS OF LOTT CASE ARE SOMEWHAT CLEARER.

(B) ARMY AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE REQUESTED TO COMPLETE INVESTIGATION OF LOTT AFFAIR ON URGENT BASIS. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT FULL FACTS BE MADE AVAILABLE BY CABLE TO DEPARTMENT NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 18.

(C) DEPARTMENT ASSUMES THAT LOTT IS BEING COUNSELLED AS APPROPRIATE AND THAT HE WILL NOT VISIT EAST BERLIN UNDER ANY CONDITIONS FOR THE PRESENT. HE SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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SPECIFICALLY TOLD THAT DEPARTMENT, USBER AND AMEMBASSY BERLIN DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE FOR HIM AND THAT HIS OWN ACTIONS HAVE, IF ANYTHING, DELAYED PROGRESS.

(D) IF GDR SHOULD MENTION HUMANITARIAN CASES, EMBASSY MAY EXPRESS US DESIRE TO RESOLVE THESE MATTERS AT AN EARLY DATE AND MAY ENGAGE IN ANY DISCUSSIONS TO THAT END WHICH GDR PROPOSES. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, TAKE THE

INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME. KISSINGER

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